

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, and for the allowance of claims 17-29. Applicant also notes with appreciation Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statements filed in the present application by the return of the initialed and signed PTO-1449 forms and the Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicant's claim for priority and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents in the Official Action. Upon entry of the present paper, claims 30-38 will have been added, and claims 1-38 will remain pending, with claims 17-29 standing allowed. Applicant notes that newly-added claims 30-38 generally respectively correspond to original claims 1-6, 9, 14 and 16, and further recite a digital camera having, *inter alia*, a body. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of all the claims pending in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Turning to the merits of the action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication US 2001-0024573 to NOMURA (commonly-assigned to Applicant's Assignee), finding that this reference teaches all limitations of these claims.

As discussed *supra*, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. Applicant submits that NOMURA, as well as the other references of record, are markedly different from the present claimed invention. Specifically, as discussed *supra*, NOMURA fails to teach or suggest at least the claimed features that the second ring contacts the annular ring engagement surface,

and a biasing arrangement (or device) configured to urge the first and second rings in generally opposite directions and bias the first and second ring engagement surfaces into contact with the annular ring engagement surface, as claimed in claim 1 (and newly-added claim 30). Rather, in NOMURA the engagement surface 18a of the second ring (second cam barrel 18) does not contact an annular ring (stationary barrel) engagement surface. In fact, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of NOMURA, no portion of the second ring contacts the annular ring.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that NOMURA, as well as the other references of record, fails to teach or suggest the invention of independent claim 1 (or of newly-added independent claim 30), as well as the claims dependent therefrom.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of dependent claims 3, 4, 6 and 14-16, since these claims are dependent from allowable independent claim 1, which is allowable for at least the reasons discussed *supra*, these dependent claims are also allowable for at least these reasons. Further, all dependent claims (including newly-added dependent claims 31-38) recite additional features which further define the present invention over the references of record. It is thus respectfully submitted that all rejected claims are patentably distinct from the references of record.

Absent a disclosure in a single reference of each and every element recited in a claim, a prima facie case of anticipation cannot be made under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Since the applied reference fails to disclose each and every element recited in independent claim 1, and the claims dependent therefrom, these claims are not anticipated thereby. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

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Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending claim of the present application meets the requirements for patentability under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate the allowance of each and every pending claim in the present application.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present paper is in proper form and that none of the references either taken together or taken alone in any proper combination thereof, anticipates or renders obvious Applicant's invention. Accordingly, consideration of the present Response, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and are now believed to be appropriate.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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